

**CARPOPHAGA AURORAE PEALE, 1848 AND SERRESIUS
GALEATUS BONAPARTE, 1855 (AVES): PROPOSED
CONSERVATION BY THE SUPPRESSION OF COLUMBA
R. FORSTERI WAGLER, 1829. Z.N.(S.)2277**

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This application is designed to preserve the long established and generally used specific names of *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 (*U.S. Expl. Exped., Birds* vol. 8, p. 201) (type locality Aurora Island = Makatea, Tuamotu Archipelago), a fruit pigeon from Tahiti (Society Islands) and Makatea, and *Serresius galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855 (*C.R. Acad. Sci. Paris* vol. 41, p. 1110) (type locality Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands), a fruit pigeon from the Marquesas Islands. Both are currently placed in the genus *Ducula* (Goodwin, 1983, *Pigeons and doves of the World*, 3rd. ed., p. 320).

2. *Columba R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829 (*Isis von Oken* col. 739) (based on *Columba globicera* var. ? of Reinhold Forster MS., from Tahiti) has been variously identified as a senior subjective synonym of both *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 (see paragraph 5 below) and *Serresius galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855 (see paragraph 4 below).

3. According to Art. 26(d) of the Code as amended as Monaco (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* vol. 29, pp. 72–73 & 188, 1972, approving Declaration 42, 1966, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* vol. 23, pp. 198–200), an abbreviation in a compound name is to be written out in full. Hence Wagler's name would become either *reinholdforsteri* if the given name is put in the genitive case or *reinholdforsteri* if not. Subsequent authors have mostly quoted the name as '*Columba forsteri* Wagler, 1829' which is technically incorrect. This usage invites confusion with *Columba Forsteri* Desmarest, 1826 (*Dict. Sci. nat. ed. Levrault* vol. 11, p. 340), which was proposed as a new name for *Columba porphyracea* Temminck, 1821 (*Trans. Linn. Soc. London* vol. 13, p. 130) from Tongatabu and Ulietea. *Columba Forsteri* Desmarest, 1826 has usually been regarded as an objective synonym of *Ptilinopus porphyraceus* (Temminck, 1821). The name *Columba forsterii* was also used by Prévost (in Knip, 1838–1843 *Les Pigeons* 2nd edition, vol. 2, p. 87, pl. 47) for the bird later named as *Hemiphaga forsteni* 'Temminck' Bonaparte, 1854 (*C.R. Acad. Sci. Paris* vol. 39, p. 1077).

4. *Columba R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829 was identified as a senior subjective synonym of *Serresius galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855 by the following authors:

- (1) Gray, 1859. *Cat. Bds Trop. Is. Pacific Ocean.*
- (2) Wigglesworth, 1891. *Abh. Ber. K. zool. anthr. Mus. Dresden* 1890–1891 (6).

(3) Lysaght, 1957. *Ibis* vol. 99, pp. 118–120 (as '*Ducula forsteri* (Wagler), 1829', with recommendation that this name should be used to replace *Serresius galeata* [sic] Bonaparte).

5. *Columba R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829 was identified as a senior subjective synonym of *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 by the following authors:

- (1) Salvadori, 1893. *Cat. Bds br. Mus.* vol. 21, pp. 172–173 (identified as the same as *Carpophaga wilkesii* Peale, 1848 (*U.S. Expl. Exped. Bds* vol. 8, p. 203), but with reservations; *Carpophaga wilkesii* Peale, 1848 was recognised as a junior subjective synonym of *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 by Townsend & Wetmore (1919, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.* vol. 63, p. 190), Murphy (1924, *Am. Mus. Novit.* No. 115, p. 8) and Mathews (1927, *Syst. Av. Australas.* vol. 1, p. 45)).
- (2) Mathews, 1927. *Syst. Av. Australas.* vol. 1, p. 45 (in synonymy of *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 as '?*Columba forsteri* Wagler').
- (3) Stresemann, 1950. *Auk* vol. 67, pp. 84–87 (as '*Ducula forsteri* (Wagler, 1829), with a recommendation that this name should not be adopted, 'for the benefit of uniformity and stability').

We believe that the latter is the correct identification because *Ducula aurorae* is the only large fruit pigeon on Tahiti and the locality of Forster's bird is given as Tahiti. However, others contend that there may formerly have been a second large species on Tahiti identical with *D. galeata* of the Marquesas Islands.

6. Forster (1844, *Descript. Animal.*, ed. Lichtenstein, p. 166) gave the locality for his *Columba globicera* Varietas as 'insulae Otaheite' which Wagler quoted as 'Habitat in insula Otaheite'. Murphy (1924, *Am. Mus. Novit.* vol. 115, pp. 7–8), Mayr (1940, *Am. Nat.* vol. 74, p. 270), Amadon (1943, *Am. Mus. Novit.* No. 1237, p. 12), Thibault & Thibault (1973, *Oiseau, Rev. fr. Orn.* vol. 43, p. 67) and Holyoak (1974, *Oiseau, Rev. fr. Orn.* vol. 44, pp. 163–164; 1975, *Oiseau, Rev. fr. Orn.* vol. 45, pp. 341–344) have firmly established that *Ducula galeata* (Bonaparte) is known only from the Marquesas Islands, where *D. aurorae* (Peale) is unknown, the latter species being known with certainty only from Tahiti and Makatea. Lysaght (*op. cit.*) suggested that 'the giant pigeon [*D. galeata* auct.], found only in the Marquesas, should be known as *Ducula forsteri* (Wagner) [sic] 1829, the type locality being Tahiti'. However, there is no evidence for the former occurrence of a second species of large pigeon on Tahiti, beyond a statement rejecting the idea by Bonaparte and an unsupported suggestion of former occurrence of another form by Bruner (1972, *Field Guide to Birds of French Polynesia*, p. 67) in a popular guide produced by cyclostyling. Bonaparte (1855, *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris* vol. 41, p. 1111) stated: 'On a assuré à M. Jardin qu'il est plus fréquent à Otaheiti; mais j'ai peine à le croire, ne trouvant du reste pas étonnant qu'un oiseau si remarquable ait un nom dans la langue d'un pays où on l'importerait seulement'.

7. The fruit-pigeon of Tahiti and Makatea has been universally known as *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848. A sample list of the literature mainly of the last fifty years but including some earlier standard works that were relied on for nomenclature is given in Appendix 1.

8. With the few exceptions noted in paragraph 4 above, the fruit-pigeon of the Marquesas Islands has been universally known as *Serresius galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855. A sample list of the literature, mainly of the last fifty years but including some earlier standard works that were relied on for nomenclature, is given in Appendix 2.

9. While a proposal to accept *Columba R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829 in place of either *aurorae* or *galeata* (depending on which identification were accepted), would be in accordance with the Principle of Priority, either replacement would disturb stability and universality of usage and cause confusion because of the disparate views as to its identity. Art. 79 of the Code allows that a junior name may be validated in the interest of promoting stability and universality of usage or avoiding confusion. As noted in paragraph 5 above, Wagler's name has not been adopted in place of *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 by any recent author, whereas numerous authors have used Peale's name as indicated under paragraph 7 above. Intolerable confusion could arise if *Columba R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829 were now adopted in place of *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 or *Serresius galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855. Even if Wagler's name (following Lysaght's view) is interpreted as a senior synonym of *Serresius galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855 (which we consider would be incorrect), usage of *galeatus* has been almost universal, as indicated in paragraph 8 above. The suppression of Wagler's name (of uncertain applicability to one or other) is preferable to a ruling that Peale's or Bonaparte's names should merely be given precedence over it, as it must apply to one or the other of the species currently known as *Ducula aurorae* or *D. galeata*. The birds of the Society Islands and the Marquesas Islands are now sufficiently well known for it to be extremely improbable that a second species of large pigeon exists in either archipelago.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is, therefore, requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829, as published in the binomen *Columba R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *aurorae* Peale, 1848, as published in the binomen *Carpophaga aurorae*;
 - (b) *galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855, as published in the binomen *Serresius galeatus*;
- (3) to place the specific name *R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829, as published in the binomen *Columba R. Forsteri* and suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

APPENDIX 1

Recent and major books and papers using the specific name *aurorae* for the fruit-pigeon of the Society Islands:

SALVADORI, 1893. *Cat. Bds Br. Mus.* vol. 21, pp. 172, 180.
 TOWNSEND & WETMORE, 1919. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* vol. 63, p. 190.
 MURPHY, 1924. *Am. Mus. Novit.* No. 115, p. 8.
 MATHEWS, 1927. *Syst. Av. Australia.* vol. 1, p. 45.
 PETERS, 1937. *Checklist Bds World* vol. 3, p. 43.
 MAYR, 1940. *Am. Nat.* vol. 74, p. 270.
 AMADON, 1943. *Am. Mus. Novit.* No. 1237, p. 12.
 GREENWAY, 1958. *Extinct and vanishing bds World*, p. 17.
 GOODWIN, 1967. *Pigeons and doves World*, pp. 385, 387, 398.
 THIBAULT & THIBAULT, 1973. *Oiseau, Rev. fr. Orn.* vol. 43, p. 67.
 EDWARDS, 1974. *Coded list bds World*, p. 41.
 HOLYOAK, 1974. *Oiseau, Rev. fr. Orn.* vol. 44, pp. 11, 163–164, 183–184.
 THIBAULT, 1974. *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris Sér. D* vol. 278, p. 2478.
 THIBAULT & RIVES, 1975. *Bds of Tahiti*, p. 92.
 THIBAULT & THIBAULT, 1975. *Oiseau, Rev. fr. Orn.* vol. 45, p. 91.
 GRUSON, 1976. *Checklist Bds World*, p. 42.
 HOLYOAK & THIBAULT, (1984). *Bull. Mus. natn. d'Hist. natn., Paris, sér. A.* Tome 127.

APPENDIX 2

Recent and major books and papers using the specific name *galeatus* for the fruit-pigeon of the Marquesas Islands:

SALVADORI, 1893. *Cat. Bds Br. Mus.* vol. 21, p. 171.
 MURPHY, 1924. *Am. Mus. Novit.* No. 115, p. 7.
 MATHEWS, 1927. *Syst. Av. Australia.* vol. 1, p. 44.
 PETERS, 1937. *Checklist Bds World* vol. 3, p. 43.
 ADAMSON, 1939. *Bull. Bernice P. Bishop Mus.* vol. 159, p. 64.
 MAYR, 1940. *Am. Nat.* vol. 74, p. 270.
 GREENWAY, 1958. *Extinct and vanishing bds World*, p. 95.
 KING, 1958. *Elepaio* vol. 19, p. 16.
 GOODWIN, 1967. *Pigeons and doves World*, pp. 385, 387, 399.
 THIBAULT, 1973. *Bull. Soc. Et. Océaniennes, Polynésie orientale* vol. 15, p. 268.
 THIBAULT, 1973. *Alauda* vol. 41, p. 314.
 THIBAULT & THIBAULT, 1973. *Oiseau, Rev. fr. Orn.* vol. 43, p. 67.
 EDWARDS, 1974. *Coded list bds World*, p. 41.
 HOLYOAK, 1975. *Oiseau, Rev. fr. Orn.* vol. 45, pp. 215, 217, 341–344, 363.
 GRUSON, 1976. *Checklist Bds World*, p. 43.
 HOLYOAK & THIBAULT, (1984). *Bull. Mus. natn. d'Hist. natn., Paris, sér. A.* Tome 127.